



Pest Detection and Management Programs

Plant Protection and Quarantine

Weekly Notice, February 28, 2005

This "Weekly Notice" is prepared by the Pest Detection and Management Programs (PDMP) to communicate recent important events. These notices and other more detailed program information can be found at:

<http://www.aphis.usda.gov/ppq/ep/reports/>

Sudden Oak Death

As of Friday, February 25, California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) reports that it had completed its delimitation and perimeter surveys of the Los Angeles County nursery recently found positive for *Phytophthora ramorum*; both surveys were completed by February 4, 2005. Water, soil, and potting media samples were collected on February 9th. Diagnostic results from the delimiting samples are pending. To date one culture sample from a block of 898 *Camellia japonica* plants has been determined by CDFA and confirmed by APHIS Plant Protection and Quarantine to be positive. Four other samples from the block have tested positive by CDFA. All 898 plants in the infected block were destroyed on February 18, 2005.

According to CDFA, the nursery resumed shipping non-host plants from outside the destruction block and buffer areas on February 4, 2005. Host and associated host plants, to the genera level, are still being held and will not be released until all test results are completed.

Between August 2004 and January 2005, the nursery shipped over 87,000 plants to 339 nurseries and retail centers throughout the United States. The nursery has provided APHIS with a list of customers that received plants. APHIS and state inspectors are tracing these shipments. CDFA reports that plants at four trace forward sites have tested positive for the pathogen.

The nursery had previously been found positive in March 2004. CDFA destroyed infected plants and other plants at risk of infection and the nursery was surveyed for evidence of infection. Following the requirements of the APHIS Confirmed Nursery Protocol, the nursery was partially released to ship some plants in April 2004. It was fully released to ship plants in August 2004.

This is the first report of a positive nursery in 2005.

On February 15, PPQ confirmed a positive detection of *P. ramorum* in a bonsai camellia sample submitted from Pennsylvania. The plant was part of last year's shipments from a San Diego County, California mail order company. The customer received the plant December 2003 and the entire plant was confiscated by the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture on June 8, 2004. The plant had not been outdoors.

With the positive report for the bonsai camellia, above, the count for 2004 is 177 positive *P. ramorum* detections in 22 states. Pennsylvania has had two of those detections, both in bonsai camellias from the same company.

Submitted by: Jim Writer

Citrus Canker:

On February 25, 2005, an interim rule (with a 60-day comment period) was published in the Federal Register to amend the regulations in "Subpart-Citrus Canker" [7 CFR§ 301.75-4(a)]. This interim rule updates the list of quarantined areas in the State of Florida due to citrus canker and also releases one area from quarantine. As a result of new infestations of citrus canker that have recently been detected, a quarantine area in DeSoto County has been expanded, and two new quarantine areas were established in Charlotte County, as well as a new quarantine area that includes small portions of Collier and Hendry Counties. The last remaining portion of Manatee County has been removed from the list of quarantine areas because regular surveys have shown it to be free of citrus canker for at least 2 years.

The USDA incident command team is continuing to conduct surveys in the Indian River citrus production area--to date the team has completed surveys of nearly 10,000 acres or about 6 percent of the acreage in the four county production area. This activity complements the residential surveys done by the PPQ sentinel survey program, and routine surveys of commercial groves being done by the state. In recent days, there has been a marked reduction in the number of new detections, not



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only in the Indian River area but in the eight other areas (not including the infested area in southeast Florida which includes Miami and Ft. Lauderdale) of the state where eradication activities are currently underway. In most areas all infected and exposed trees have now been removed.

Submitted by: Lynn Evans-Goldner

Asian Longhorned Beetle (ALB)

New Jersey:

As of February 23, 2005, 1,456 trees have been removed from the Middlesex/Union counties ALB infestation site. Of those 475 were infested host trees and 981 were high risk exposed host trees. Tree falling crews continue to work this week in the residential areas of Carteret. Currently 11 program personnel from USDA-APHIS- PPQ, New Jersey Department of Agriculture (NJDA), NJ Forest Service are performing survey, control and regulatory activities. Seven program personnel continue to perform survey and regulatory activities in the Jersey City Quarantine.

NJDA is working with City of Rahway officials to set up a public information meeting in early March to discuss the need to remove 1,400 more trees in the city due to the recent expansion of the quarantine zone.

The NJ Turnpike Authority provided the NJ ALB Program with a permit to allow program tree climbers access to climb inspect trees along the Turnpike which falls within the Middlesex/Union ALB Quarantine area.

Program personnel will remain on-site during the tree removal process to address concerns from homeowners and to ensure operations continue to run smoothly.

Rosa Yoo, NJ DEP Community Forester/ALB Outreach, and Elisandra Sanchez, USDA-APHIS-PPQ-NJ-ALB Compliance Officer, will provide an ALB Presentation to the Union County Garden Club next Wednesday, March 2.

The NJ DEP is setting up a hot issues page, a summary of what is going on in the NJ ALB Program to keep its

employees updated on the program's progress -- tree removal and tree replacement.

New York:

The NYC Parks and Recreation, Central Parks Conservancy and Deputy Parks Commissioner Kavanaugh has been asked for approval for usage of the ArborJet pressure injection system to treat trees for ALB this spring. ALB Eradication Program in NY will require approval from NYC Parks and Recreation before this new methodology is permitted to be used to treat trees on Parks properties. An ALB Management Board conference call is scheduled for Friday February 25 to finalize 2005 treatment areas.

On February 15th there was a meeting of Federal and State ALB program officials Joan Mahoney, New York State ALB Program Director, and NYSDAM Assistant Director Division of Plant Industry William Nastyn, and New York City Sanitation officials including the 1st Deputy Commissioner for Sanitation and NYC Parks Deputy Commissioner Kavanaugh, to reinforce the requirements for proper disposal of host material generated in or moving from the quarantine area. Local program regulatory officers, PHSS Patrick Marino, and NYSDAM Supervisory Horticulture Inspector Daniel Moore also attended the meeting.

Long Island Power Authority has placed ALB information (the Morton Arboretum CD in English & Spanish) to their website. Additionally they are planning to include information about ALB in the next issue of LIPA News, scheduled for April/May.

Illinois:

On Friday, February 18th, Gwen Services, Project Supervisor, Joe McCarthy, Senior City Forester and Mike Brown, Assistant General Superintendent, Bureau of Forestry met with Chicago Alderman Gene Schuler to discuss deregulation plans including the location and dates for the Ravenswood public hearing and signing ceremony press event.

As of February 18, a total of 18,065 trees have been surveyed for the year.



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USDA FS ALB Public Outreach Meeting:

On Wednesday, Feb. 23 a meeting between USDA Forest Service and APHIS Public Affairs/outreach staff and state cooperators representing the Asian Longhorned Beetle Cooperative Eradication Programs in New York and New Jersey was held.

The goals of the meeting included:

1. Assessing the current needs and goals of the ALB programs in New York and New Jersey and how these might be assisted by public outreach grant funds distributed through the Forest Health program in the Northeastern Area of the Forest Service.
2. Finding ways to identify and support grant holders and projects that advance both our current specific program needs and broader needs of public outreach/education on forest health threats.
3. Forging a stronger partnership with State cooperators in choosing grant projects and grant recipients.

Submitted by: Claudia Ferguson

Soybean Rust (SBR)

A weekly Soybean Rust Conference Call for various stakeholders was organized on Wednesday, March 2, 2005, at 1:00 P.M. At least 40 participants representing USDA- APHIS, Agricultural Research Service (ARS), Cooperative State Research Education, and Extension Service (CSREES), American Soybean Association (ASA), and Industry were present on the call. The Conference Call was conducted through a facilitator in the form of Questions and Answers. Many questions were answered and clarification was provided to the inquirers. From now on, a similar conference is planned for every Wednesday at 1 P.M. for duration of at least 1 hour.

At the recent USDA-sponsored Soybean Rust Meeting in Indianapolis, the American Phytopathological Society (APS) offered to take the lead in organizing a National Soybean Rust Symposium in autumn of 2005. The dates for this National Soybean Rust Symposium are now set

for November 15-16, 2005. The APS staff is getting bids from hotels in several airline-accessible cities and hope to announce the venue soon. Mark your calendars for November 15-16, 2005, and stay tuned for more information.

A Soybean Rust conference call was held on Thursday, February 24, 2005, at 1:00 P.M. between representatives of USDA/APHIS (Headquarters, Regions, State Plant Health Director's), States' Plant Regulatory Officials (SPROs), ARS, CSREES, National Plant Board, ASA, United Soybean Board, and Industry to discuss SBR monitoring efforts for the 2005 growing season based on APHIS' 2005 SBR Coordinated Framework and Early Detection and Surveillance Plan. At the end of this conference call, it was decided to organize a Weekly Questions and Answers style Conference Call every Wednesday, starting from March 02, 2005.

Submitted by: Anwar Rizvi